

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T A L USBERLIN 1424

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 1424 VICE 1409)

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: NORTHERN CROSSING POINT

REF: USBERLIN 1409

1. SUMMARY: GDR TOOK TOUGH LINE IN FURTHER MEETING
JLUY 8 ON NORTHERN CROSSING POINT. SENAT REMAINS
FAVORABLY DISPOSED IN PRINCIPLE BUT IS RESERVING
OPTION OF REJECTING GDR OFFER IF SOLUTION TO TRAFFIC
PROBLEMS CANNOT BE FOUND OR IF FRG BALKS AT PAYING
WHAT PROMISES TO BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL BILL. END SUMMARY.

2. GDR DEPUTY VISITS COMMISSIONER MUELLER REJECTED
OUTRIGHT SUGGESTION BY SENAT VISITS COMMISSIONER
KUNZE THAT GDR AGREE TO SELL OR EXCHANGE SO-CALLED
"DUCKBILL" PROTRUSION OF GDR INTO ORANIENBURGER
CHAUSSEE THAT PRESENTLY MAKES TRAFFIC SITUATION ON
APPROACHES TO PROPOSED ZERNDORFER WEG CROSSING
POINT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. MUELLER AGREED TO REPORT
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TO HIS SUPERIORS SENAT'S ALTERNATE PROPOSALS FOR

CONSTRUCTING TUNNEL UNDERNEATH DUCKBILL. HE PROMISED TO TRY TO PROVIDE ANSWER QUICKLY, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS JULY 9, BUT HE HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT RESPONSE WOULD BE FAVORABLE.

3. MUELLER DID CONFIRM THAT GDR DOES NOT INTEND TO PROPOSE THAT ZERNDORFER WEG BE USED AS CROSSING POINT FOR PROJECTED HAMBURG AUTOBASHN WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT SUBJECT BEGIN IN 1978. SOMEWAHT SURPRISINGLY HE SAID IN RESPONSE TO ADDITIONAL KUNZE QUESTION THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO ASK SUPERIORS FOR CONFIRMATION THAT ZERNDORFER WEG WOULD ONLY BE A SUPPLEMENTARY CROSSING POINT FOR TRANSIT TRAVEL TO POLAND AND SCANDANAVIA AND THAT TRAVELLERS WHO SO WISHED COULD CONTINUE TO USE MORE CENTRALLY LOCATED STAAAKEN CROSSING POINT. SENAT BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS QUESTION SIMPLY CAUGHT MUELLER BY SURPRISE AND THAT GDR DOES NOT INTEND TO RESTRICT FUNCTION OF STAAKEN CROSSING POINT WHEN AND IF ZERNDORFER WEG COMES INTO OPERATON.

4. MUELLER PROVIDED LITTLE COMFORT ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS. HE STATED THAT GDR ESTIMATE OF DM 28 MILLION FOR ZERNDORFER WEG CROSSING POINT IS INITIAL COST TO BUILD CHECK POINT AND PREPARE EXITING ROAD ON GDR SIDE OF BORDER. NEW ROAD THAT GDR SAYS WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE BUILT WOULD SOCT FURTHER UNSPECIFIED SUM THAT GDR WOULD EXPECT SENAT TO PAY IN FULL. MUELLER REJECTED KUNZE REQUEST FOR DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF DM 28 MILLION FIGURE SAYING THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLY AFTER SENAT COMMITTED ITSELF TO PAY.

5. ACTING HEAD OF SENT CHANCELLORY SCHULTZE TOLD SENAT LIAISON OFFICERS THAT SENAT WILL NOW CONSULT WITH FRG TO DETERMINE WHETHER FRG WISHES GAUS TO TRY TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR AND WHETHER IT IS PREPARED TO PAY MOUNTING BILLS. SCHULTZE NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO DM 28 MILLION FIGURE CITED BY GDR AND UNSPECIFIED COSTS FOR NEW ROAD IN GDR, SENAT'S OWN PROPOSAL FOR A TUNNEL UNDER DUCKBILL WOULD COST CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM DM 2 MILLION TO DM 10 MILLION DEPENDING UPON TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORK TO BE IN-STITUTED ON ROADS ON WEST BERLIN SIDE OF CROSSING POINT. SCHULTZE SAID THAT GOVERNING MAYOR AHD REITERATED TO HIM JULY 8 THAT SENAT IS STILL OPERATING ON THEORY THAT ANY NEW CROSSING PONT IS WELCOME. SCHULTZE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT EVENTUAL REJECTION

OF GDR OFFER WAS NOT INCONCEIVABLE IF GDR TURNED
DOWN ALL SENAT PROPOSALS TO OBVIATE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS
INHERENT IN DUCKBILL OR FRG WOULD NOT AGREE TO
PAY FOR WHAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EXPENSIVE
PROJECT. GEORGE

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